4.	Sainik School, Gopalganj, Bihar	15.	Sainik School, Punglwa, Nagaland
5.	Sainik School, Balachadi, Gujarat	16.	Sainik School, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa
6.	Sainik School, Sujanpur Tira, Himachal Pradesh	17.	Sainik School, Kapurthala, Punjab
7.	Sainik School, Kunjpura, Haryana	18.	Sainik School, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan
8.	Sainik School, Tilaiya, Jharkhand	19.	Sainik School, Amravathinagar, Tamil Nadu
9.	Sainik School, Nagrota, Jammu (J&K)	20.	Sainik School, Ghorakhal, Uttaranchal
10.	Sainik School, Bijapur, Karnataka	21.	Sainik School, Purulia, West Bengal
11.	Sainik School, Kazhakootam, Kerala		

Demand for pay hike by armed forces

3704. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that armed forces had demanded 200 per cent hike in their pay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the armed forces had also demanded for a better pension deal for Jawans and Personnel Below Officers' Rank (PBOR); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Government has set up the Sixth Central Pay Commission to go into the question of pay, allowances and other facilities/benefits etc. of Central Government Employees including Armed Forces Personnel. The three services have submitted a joint memorandum to the Sixth Central Pay

Commission seeking *inter alia,* the improved pay scales for the Armed Forces Personnel. The Armed Forces have also sought a better package for Personnel Below Officers' Rank (PBOR) that includes brighter career prospects and enhanced pensionary benefits.

Vacancies in armed forces

3705. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of posts are lying vacant in defence forces of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what initiatives are being taken by Government to fill the posts in defence services, on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A total number of 14.165 posts of officers and 20,432 posts of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBORs) are presently vacant in the Armed Forces. Out of these vacancies, the number of vacant posts of officers in the Army, Navy and Air Force are 11,238, 1,399 and 1,528 respectively. Similarly, in the case of Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR), a total number of 3665 and 16767 posts are vacant in the Navy and Air Force respectively. There are no vacant posts of PBORs in the Army.

Several steps have been taken by the three Services to make the career in Armed Forces attractive and to fill up the vacant posts. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. The tenure of SSC officers has been extended to 14 years in the three Services.

Besides, the Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Candidate-friendly recruitment procedures to attract more number of candidates and a focused publicity drive in various institutions to attrack potential candidates have been undertaken. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs